Sean Falasca

EDU 221

Dr. Ward

**My Essential Belief Statement**

As I was in my high school years I was supposed to be thinking of what I wanted to be when I was older. Like any high school student, I had no idea even up until my senior year. Then, I took A.P. U.S. History with my former freshman football coach and he made me excited to go to class every single day. From then on, my interest in teaching grew with each day. I have also worked at a summer camp for eight years and I love working with kids and teaching them a variety of things throughout the summers. Every chance I have had at teaching I have taken it, and loved it every single time. I know taking this course will provide me with invaluable knowledge I will need to be a successful teacher.

Stepping into my history classroom everyday was like anticipating a good movie in a movie theater. The enthusiasm and passion my teacher was infused with was apparently contagious to me. That teacher made my life better each and every day by giving me something to look forward to. As a high school student I was not the motivated or effort type of student, but my history teacher was like a magician when it came time for me to become motivated and put forth effort. He was the spark that ignited my flame to push towards becoming a teacher.

Another influence of mine is working at a summer camp. Teaching kids from five years old up to teenagers made showing up every day irresistible. The five year olds up to ten year olds needed to be taught basic things like tying their shoes, zipping zippers, not putting clothes on inside out or backwards or even both. The older kids from eleven up to teenagers just need instruction on things like etiquette, respect and even humility. The big influence I saw at this camp throughout the years was six year old kids having better reading capabilities than seventh graders. In no way is that acceptable. It makes me upset to know that so many students slip through the class

I want to teach high school because I want to be that same teacher that helps a confused student find what they are looking for in life. It does not even have to be teaching, but anyway I can be of service I would be happy to know I made a positive impact. Showing my passion for teaching every day and being a role model for all students to look at is what I want. Helping students that were like me with huge potential and no cause is why secondary education appeals to me so much. High school years can be tough and having one thing to look forward to every day can be all some students need.

I expect to run into some issues as a teacher. I know I will have a variety of difficult students with bad attitudes, poor family life, poor socioeconomic statuses, learning disabilities, and one that just will not show up. I fear that I will not be able to provide the right education or support to students like this. In a sense, letting a student down is my biggest fear. I will feel personally responsible for each student I have.

I expect this class to share with me the different ways of teaching to the array of learning students. Hopefully this class will ease my fear about how to teach difficult students. Learning how to teach is another thing I hope to learn. Lesson planning, teacher-student relationships, teacher-parent relationships, and anything else that will be essential for me to know as a teacher. I hope to conquer my fears in this class and emerge with even more zeal than what I started with.